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SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1916.



BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
32 DERNE STREET.
1916.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Massachusetts **WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN**
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1916.



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WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
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1916

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1916-20

APPROVED BY
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

D. of D.
NOV 21 1917

OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

HAROLD PARKER.

THEODORE L. HARLOW.

JOHN T. BURNETT.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

ADDRESS, PRINCETON, MASS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

The report of last year contains a résumé of the work of the Commission from its inception, or such part of it as will be of interest to the public as coming from a board having in charge public property and the administration of a public trust. It will be recalled that the law which created the Reservation Commission placed the cost of maintaining it upon the county of Worcester alone, and that the Commission should in no way be required to account to the General Court for the annual outlay made by the county under the provisions of the act.

Every year since the creation of the Commission the records of the county commissioners show in detail the expenditures made on the part of the county for the upkeep of the reservation, which has been spent under the direction of the Wachusett Commission.

It is necessary in the administration of its duties that the Commission shall present an estimate of the proposed cost for the ensuing year to the county commissioners, which shall be included in their estimates of county expenditures for that year. It has always been adjusted by agreement between the two boards what should be allotted for this purpose for the year, and the finances and the responsibilities of each have always been harmoniously and equitably adjusted between them. The county as represented by its natural guardians, the county commissioners, has cheer-

fully recognized its responsibility, and has liberally responded to the demands thus made upon its revenue.

Some years ago, at the time when it appeared that the hotel upon the reservation was no longer fit for occupancy, certain technical objections were presented to the expenditure of county funds for the construction or reconstruction of a hotel on the top of the mountain, on the ground that no county funds could be legally expended on the construction, or material reconstruction, of a building the title to which would be in the State and not in the county. This objection was overcome, however, by an act of the Legislature authorizing such expenditure by the county. The hotel was entirely reconstructed out of county funds, which, as has been previously stated, were allowed to accumulate until sufficient sums had thus been provided to enable the Commission to erect and equip a hotel adapted to the situation and the public needs. The new hotel was completed several years ago, and has since been operated in the public interest. It has been the effort of the Commission that everybody who goes to the summit of Wachusett shall be able to obtain an excellent meal and good accommodations at a price little above their actual cost, and that they shall have the benefit of the bracing air, pure water and an extended view, with all the advantages of a public reservation, without any cost whatever.

In the administration of this reservation, as was stated in last year's report, the experiment of using short-term county prisoners as laborers and road builders was carefully tried out in conjunction with the commissioners of the county, with the result that a demonstration of the practical value of placing men who are not permanently criminal in healthful and normal surroundings during their term of imprisonment has been successful. A careful study of the various aspects of this situation has been made during the past four years, and the conclusion reached that, from an economical and psychological point of view, because of the employment of prisoners in outdoor work, where their surroundings are healthful and their conditions normal, and where the

degradation of their punishment does not, when they are discharged, blight their future life, these men return to their ordinary occupations better fitted to be worthy citizens than they would if discharged at the end of their term of punishment under conditions existing. Experience with prisoners of this type indicates that few persons are checked in a downward career by the punishment of a term in prison. More often, unfortunately, are they confirmed in such a course. The Commission is convinced that a prison as ordinarily existing is not in any sense a real reformatory. It is merely a place for keeping in restraint certain malefactors who, upon being released, and realizing the disgrace that is attached to a discharged prisoner, fall into a worse course of life. It is obvious, therefore, that any treatment of prisoners which improves their physical condition and tends to encourage their self-respect, if they have any, and to mitigate the disgrace attending them among their old associations as discharged prisoners, must on the whole be beneficial, and should be put in practice wherever it is possible.

During the past few years the county prisoners who have been available from the Worcester jail have had a permanent place of residence upon the reservation, and have done all the labor that has been performed under the direction of foremen supplied by the superintendent of the reservation. It is an argument in favor of this practice that several of the prisoners have been retained permanently upon the reservation after their terms have expired.

Beside the activities referred to, many miles of very good roads have been built within the reservation, which serve the double purpose of pleasure drives and protection against the spread of fire. These roads in the summer time have been used by great numbers of people in driving automobiles or horses, as they afford opportunities for observation and pleasure, and are used in the general administration of the reservation. Many thousands of trees are planted each year of the kind suited to the soil and elevation, and which in the course of time will be a direct means of revenue. The

operations of practical forestry are carried on under the direction of the superintendent, so that the permanent forests are gradually and steadily improving.

During the past year the State Forester has made investigations and performed much work for the destruction of injurious insects within the reservation and along the public highways in its vicinity. This work has been done under the direction of Mr. G. A. Smith of that department.

The county road leading from Princeton Center to Westminster village is a highway much used locally all the year round, and very extensively in the summer by great varieties of people. Various efforts have been made by the town, the Commission and the county to interest the Highway Commission in improving this road or in aiding in its improvement. It was not, however, until last year that any success attended their efforts. By an arrangement between the town, the county and the State, aided by the Wachusett Commission, the road from the entrance to the reservation for a mile and a half towards Princeton Center has been entirely reconstructed under the immediate direction of the superintendent of the reservation, acting by the advice of the Highway Commission. When this road is completed as now designed, it will make a continuous highway from the top of Wachusett into the city of Worcester, there connecting with the State system of highways leading in all directions.

The report of the superintendent showing the work that has been done under his direction is given in this report.

JOHN BURNETT.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN: — The work the past year upon the reservation has been a matter of general repairs. Your Commission decided that the thing most necessary to the welfare of the reservation would be a good road approaching it, and, after trying without success for two years to get a special appropriation from the Legislature, decided it would be best to make a start in a small way. It was finally agreed that the State Highway Commission would furnish \$2,500, the county commissioners, \$1,500, the town of Princeton, \$1,000, and your Commission would furnish equipment and build it under your superintendent's direction; therefore most of the work the past summer has been done on the construction of this road.

Through the winter the general scheme of thinning out that we have followed in the past was carried on with the few men at my disposal. Quite a large area was cleared up and the brush burned and about 100 cords of firewood cut. The gas engine on the compressor was connected with a saw, and about 60 cords of this wood sawed stove length and delivered at the Summit House and headquarters. The ice house at the summit was filled from the adjoining pond.

Early in the spring the work of reforesting was continued, and 25,000 three-year-old white pine seedlings were transplanted on the reservation.

Four elk were born by our herd in the spring. This brought the herd up to thirteen, which is the largest, to my knowledge, in the State. The blizzard in the early winter uprooted large trees that tore down some fence. It was a relief to find that the elk, after getting out and wandering over the mountain, returned to their feeding place.

The fence around the elk park was carefully gone over, and a large number of the posts were found rotted off at the ground. They were replaced with good chestnut posts, and about 700 feet of old wire fence renewed.

The roads on the reservation were early put in shape for the summer, but owing to the exceptional rainfall and the heavy auto traffic the Administration Road became badly cut up, and in some places was in poor shape all summer. I think that this road will have to be macadamized, as I recommended last year. In the month of July a cloudburst struck this section that caused an enormous amount of damage. One hundred and fifty feet of the North Road was carried away because the culverts could not take care of the water. The damage was repaired and two culverts dug up and more than doubled in size.

We had a successful season at the Summit House. It was found necessary to make a few minor repairs to the house, to have some painting done, and quite an addition made to the equipment. I think this year we will have to arrange for a better lighting outfit. There is a small acetylene machine now that lights the main part, but it gives very poor service. I am in hopes it can be arranged so that we can buy electricity from the town of Princeton.

On the 15th of May, the prisoners having arrived, the stone crusher was put in operation at the old set-up near the summit, and about 100 tons of stone crushed into dust for repair work.

On the 1st of June work was begun on the town road, starting where the town road and the mountain road connect and working toward Princeton. It is hoped that this work will be continued to Holden, making a completed State road from the summit of Wachusett Mountain to Worcester. Seven thousand five hundred feet of road were improved at a total cost of \$5,175.79. The road was built 20 feet wide, with an average width of 14 feet of local crushed stone, 8 inches thick in the center and 6 inches on the sides. On top of this was a covering of 2 inches of hardpan and 2 inches of stone dust. In building the road a foundation was necessary for part of the distance, and over

1,000 cubic yards of stone filling were used; there were about 460 cubic yards of excavation, about 500 cubic yards of borrow, and about 3,200 tons of crushed stone. The culverts cost about \$100.

In conjunction with the State Forester's staff a systematic scouting for gypsy moth nests on the reservation was started. I am sorry to report an extensive spread of the moth. There are a few spots that are quite badly infested, but most of the nests are isolated. They must have been brought in by the automobiles that come from all over this State and from the States adjoining.

It may be a matter of interest to note that had it not been for this careful scouting the body of Dr. Chas. Richardson would never have been found, lying as it was in a crevice in an unfrequented part of the reservation. He disappeared in May and was found the latter part of November.

A badly infested section in the northeasterly part of the reservation was thoroughly cleared under the direction of the State Forester's staff.

Very truly yours,

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

Superintendent.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1917.



BOSTON:
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1917.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

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JANUARY, 1917.



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1917.

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APPROVED BY THE
SUPERVISOR OF ADMINISTRATION.

D. of D.
AUG 4 1917

OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

JOHN T. BURNETT.

THEODORE L. HARLOW.

FRANK C. SMITH, Jr.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

ADDRESS, PRINCETON, MASS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

In one of our previous reports the fact was mentioned of the inaccessibility of the reservation to the general public. A steam railroad runs within 8 miles of the summit on the west side, and an electric railroad within 5 miles on the northeast side. Up to last year there was a side line in operation between the main line and Wachusett Lake, which is 3 miles from the summit. The electric road has always carried on a park and picnic ground at the lake, but in 1906 the city of Fitchburg by an act of the Legislature were given the privilege of including Wachusett Lake in their water supply. Since then the park has been a failure, as the lake was fenced in, and no fishing, boating or bathing allowed. Last summer the company discontinued service on this side line, and in the fall tore up the tracks. Attention is drawn to these facts to show that while the visitors to the reservation are increasing every year, they have to depend now almost entirely on the automobile. It has been brought out in previous reports that the roads approaching the reservation from all directions are the poorest type of country roads, almost impassable seven months in the year, and just passable the other five. For this reason it is obvious that in order to make the reservation more popular, and give the public an opportunity to enjoy its attractions, something must be done to improve the roads approaching it. In 1914 and 1915 bills were sent in to the Legislature asking for a special appropriation to construct a road from Holden to the reservation, completing a State road to Worcester. Both

bills were laid on the table. This year the Worcester Chamber of Commerce will champion the bill, and the Commission will do all in their power to have it receive favorable consideration.

As stated in last year's report, a small start was made in the right direction, and it was continued this year, the Highway Commission appropriating half, the county and town half, and the Wachusett Mountain Commission furnishing the equipment. The work was done with the prison labor used on the reservation, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of road have been completed. Following this up another year will bring the road into Princeton, completing about one-third the distance to Holden. A report on the construction and cost of this road work by the Highway Commission engineer, Louis C. T. Loring, will be incorporated in this report.

This makes the fifth year that prisoners have been used as laborers on the reservation, and we still feel that it is the best solution for the handling of the short-sentence prisoner. Most of the men are good workers, and if properly watched and instructed will accomplish a large amount of work. As most of the work this year was 3 miles from the original camp a new location was necessary. This brought the camp within 2 miles of the center of Princeton, but not a complaint has been received in regard to the conduct of the men. The report of the superintendent is appended herewith.

This report cannot be closed without a tribute to the memory of Harold Parker who died on the twenty-ninth day of November, in the year 1916, after serving since its organization in 1899 as chairman of the Commission of the Wachusett Mountain Reservation.

By birth, by education and by association he was a New Englander. He believed in the strength and virtue of its hardy people, whose genuine frankness appealed to his nature more than the softer phrases of a more diplomatic race.

He loved its uneven hills, its rocks and its forests with a love which the landscape garden, with its pergolas and trimmed hedges, could not inspire.

He saw in the Wachusett Reservation a chance, without sacrificing the natural to the artificial, to make a great



HON. HAROLD PARKER.

recreation ground where the weary might find rest, and where the lover of nature might be satisfied.

To this great work he brought the enthusiasm of love, the business training gained by association with progressive men, and the accurately trained mind of a civil engineer.

Never could a more ideal combination be found for such a task.

The man, who in the brief respites from the work of this restless world, turns to nature for his rest, will walk under the trees of this Parker-planned reservation. He will pause upon its hill tops to see the autumn foliage reflected in the waters of its lakes. He will return to his work rested and inspired.

Wachusett Mountain will ever stand as a monument to the memory of Harold Parker.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN T. BURNETT.
THEODORE L. HARLOW.
FRANK C. SMITH, JR.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN:— At your request I submit the following report covering the year 1916. During the winter a large area of badly infested woodland was thinned out and the brush burned. Enough wood was obtained to supply the Summit House and headquarters. The chestnut blight having taken hold of most of the chestnut growth, I was glad of the opportunity to supply the telephone company with 125 large telephone poles. They were used for a new line running near the mountain, which made a short haul. From a number of the poles a butt log was removed, and these were hauled to the mill and sawed into about 5,000 feet of plank. This was used for repairs to the buildings and pavilions, and some was sold to the town for the construction of a stone crusher hopper. I would advise that the chestnut growth be cut out as quickly as possible, as the blight will ruin it in a few years. Five thousand feet of pine was sawed into boards and used to build a wagon shed and garage.

On the 15th of May the prisoners started work, and we used them until the 12th of December. The roads on the reservation were put in shape for the summer travel, and a large amount of resurfacing done on the mountain road. This road should have an application of oil or tarvia every year, as the increased automobile traffic causes a great amount of waste. It will be necessary to give a longer sweep to one of the sharp turns near the summit on this road, as there were three accidents this year.

From the 1st of June to the 11th of December most of our time was put into the construction of the new road from the reservation to Princeton. I will enclose the report of the Highway Commission engineer, Louis T. C. Loring.

In the fall a gang of prisoners were put to work under the supervision of three government inspectors. A thorough scout was made of most of the mountain for the gypsy moth, and I am sorry to have to report that the entire reservation seems to be infested.

The prisoners were also used to do the planting, haying, mowing brush on the roadsides and general work.

The Summit House has had its most successful year, and I feel sure that, with a good road from Worcester, something will have to be done about enlarging the present house. At your request an article was put in the town warrant asking for an appropriation to extend the electric light system to the reservation, a distance of a mile and one-half. From this extension it would be a mile and one-quarter to the Summit House. One thousand dollars was voted for this extension, but the price of copper wire advanced so rapidly that it was thought advisable to wait until it dropped to somewhere near its normal price. It might be advisable to install a small electric light plant, as there is one on the market at a reasonable price that is giving general satisfaction.

Very truly yours,

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

Superintendent.

REPORT OF THE ENGINEER.

WORCESTER, Dec. 29, 1917.

Mr. J. A. JOHNSTON, *Division Engineer, Springfield, Mass.*

DEAR SIR: — I submit the following report on the construction of the Princeton work: —

This work was done under the supervision of E. W. Needham, superintendent of the Mount Wachusett Reservation. No charge has been made for his services. There were two foremen on the work, one at the crusher and getting out field stone, and the other looked after the grading and placing of the stone. The foremen were paid at the rate of \$2.50 per day, and \$5.00 was paid for the necessary double teams. All the rest of the work was done by prison labor, for which the town paid the county \$1 per day per man.

The length constructed was 5,800 feet, 15 feet wide, area, 9,667 square yards. The approximate cost per square yard of road surface, including shoulders and gutters and drainage, is \$0.67.

The following are the estimated quantities and unit cost: —

Excavation, 1,700 cubic yards, at \$0.31,	.	.	.	.	.	\$527 00
Borrow, 650 cubic yards, at \$0.42,	.	.	.	.	.	273 00
Stone fill, 3,035 cubic yards, at \$0.86,	.	.	.	.	.	2,610 10
Broken stone, 2,900 tons, at \$0.96,	.	.	.	.	.	2,784 00
Repairing culverts,	.	.	.	.	.	249 99
Total,	.	.	.	.	.	\$6,444 09

There is a balance of \$555.91 from the appropriation for this work available during 1917.

The work has been handled in a very economical manner, and full value has been obtained with the amount expended.

Yours truly,

L. T. C. LORING,
Resident Engineer.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

10-33197

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1918.



BOSTON:
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EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

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WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1918.



BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
32 DERNE STREET.
1918.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

It has been difficult to get help in the country, owing to plenty of work and high prices in the cities, and as we were unable to procure any prisoners until the latter part of the summer, it was impossible to start much new work.

The Commission, feeling that they were in a position to respond to the call of the government for a greater food production, decided to put a larger acreage to the production of vegetables, with potatoes as the main crop. We are pleased to report a fair crop and hope to improve on it the coming year.

The Commission have presented a bill to the Legislature asking for an appropriation of \$800 to be used for the purchase of a small parcel of land adjoining the reservation. This property consists of approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of tillage land, with a small cottage house. The cottage is needed for the accommodation of help. We have a right of way over this property, and one of the reservation roads is located on this right of way. We are unable to widen this road, and it is now too narrow for the use of automobiles. It would open up a beautiful section of the reservation if this property could be purchased, and the Commission hope the Legislature will report favorably on the bill.

JOHN T. BURNETT,
THEO. L. HARLOW,
FRANK C. SMITH, JR.,

Commissioners.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN: — The work of removing the chestnut growth, affected by the blight, was continued this year. The logs were hauled to a portable mill about 3 miles from the woodlot and 15,000 feet of chestnut and 5,000 feet of pine were sawed into planks and boards. This is an expensive way of putting it into lumber, and I would advise a portable mill to handle it. Forty large telephone poles were delivered to the telephone company, and 75 cords of wood were cut. The wood used at the Summit House was cut from the side of the road halfway to the summit, and opened up a beautiful view to the east.

In the spring an appropriation was made to continue the construction of the road from the mountain to Princeton, but because of a lack of prisoners this could not be done. Three teams had been kept through the winter, with the intention of using them early on this work, but when it was decided in June that it would be impossible to furnish any prisoners, one of the teams was sold. The roads on the reservation were put in shape for the summer travel and the west road was graveled for a distance of 500 feet. The mountain road was oiled, and this was a great help to the road and to many visitors that used it. I think that a very light coat each year to act as a dust layer would be advisable.

A Delco electric light system was installed at the Summit House, and it proved a satisfactory investment. The barn at the summit had to be shingled, and two rooms were finished off in the loft. A new windmill was placed on the old tower, as this is the cheapest way to pump water into the hotel. The Summit House had a successful season and thousands of visitors from all over the country made the trip to summit.

Minor repairs were made to the pavilions, and two heavy sleds were built.

About 300 bushels of potatoes were raised and enough vegetables to supply the hotel. An exceptionally dry season cut down the supply of potatoes.

The water at Echo Lake had become foul owing to the weed *Spirogyra*, so the water was drawn off and the bottom of the pond scraped. It can be overcome in the future by an occasional treatment of copper sulphate.

The 13th of September about twenty-five prisoners were sent out, and work continued on the road to Princeton. They were mostly ten and twenty day men, and the price paid them a third more, so we could not accomplish as much as in the past. About 1,200 feet of road was completed, 18 feet wide, with a 9-inch fill of field stone, 4 inches of crushed stone, 2 inches of hard pan, and 2 inches of stone dust. In one section, 125 feet long, a fill 20 feet wide and 2.5 feet deep was made, and 150 feet of guard rail with iron posts built. About half of the appropriation was used and the remainder will be used in the early spring if prisoners are available.

The elk are in good condition. Two bucks were killed and sold for venison and brought a good price. This left ten cows and a large buck.

The work of police patrol was carried on in the usual manner.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

Superintendent.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION

JANUARY, 1919



BOSTON

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS

32 DERNE STREET

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NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

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Wachusett WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION

JANUARY, 1919

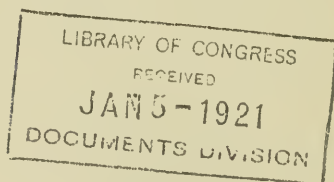


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32 DERNE STREET

1919

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SUPERVISOR OF ADMINISTRATION.



OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

JOHN T. BURNETT.

THEODORE L. HARLOW.

FRANK C. SMITH, JR.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

ADDRESS, PRINCETON, MASS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

The war has made it impossible to obtain help, and consequently we have tried to carry on the routine work with only the few regular men. It has also been our endeavor to do considerable along agricultural lines.

It is to be hoped that the coming year will see an improvement in the help situation so that we may be able to go on with our general line of improvement.

The Commission has presented a bill to the Legislature asking for a special appropriation to build a State road from Princeton to Holden. This would complete a good road from Worcester to the summit of Wachusett, and is most essential for the welfare of the reservation.

The Legislature passed favorably on the bill presented last year for the purchase of a small parcel of land, with cottage house, adjoining the reservation. Eight hundred dollars was appropriated. The property has been purchased and is now under our control.

For a more detailed report please refer to the superintendent's report.

JOHN T. BURNETT,
T. L. HARLOW,
FRANK C. SMITH, JR.,
Commissioners.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN:—The regular work on the reservation was carried on in the usual manner. Work was continued on a small scale in clearing for the proposed pond on the north side of the mountain. I hope to be able to finish this up soon if we are able to get the prisoners. Twenty-five cords of the wood obtained here was sold in Worcester at a good price, and the remainder used on the reservation. Twenty-five cords of wood were cut on the road to the summit for use at the hotel. This opens up the view as one drives up the mountain.

In the spring 25 gallons of maple syrup were made from a sugar bush on the south side of the reservation.

A survey was made of taking No. 14, comprising 1.6 acres of land with a cottage house. Extensive repairs were made to the cottage.

A tea room was built into the large piazza on the south side of the Summit House. It makes a neat and necessary addition to the hotel. A small addition was made to the barn at headquarters.

In the line of crops, 250 bushels of corn on the cob, 250 bushels of potatoes, 30 bushels of oats, 40 bushels of wheat, 30 bushels of carrots, 20 bushels of beets, and most of the vegetables used at the hotel, were raised.

The broken stone left handy to the crusher was run through and spread on the road to Princeton, as the county wished to borrow the crusher. Some blasting was done on the unfinished section of this road, making it ready for a coating of gravel.

About 500 feet of the west and north roads on the reservation received a heavy coat of gravel.

For a detailed account of expenditures, please refer to county treasurer's report.

Very truly yours,

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

Superintendent.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

10-33197

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION

JANUARY, 1920



BOSTON
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS
32 DERNE STREET
1920



TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT ✓

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Wachusett WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION

JANUARY, 1920



BOSTON
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32 DERNE STREET

1920

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n. of D.
NOV 23 1920

OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

JOHN T. BURNETT.

THEODORE L. HARLOW.

FRANK C. SMITH, JR.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

ADDRESS, PRINCETON, MASS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

The commission desires to report that the appropriation from the county for the maintenance of the reservation is the same (\$8,000) as at its inception in 1900. This means that at the present values the appropriation has been more than cut in half.

On the other hand, the size of the reservation has nearly tripled, a large amount of road built which has to be maintained, a number of buildings erected which have to be kept in repair, and other maintenance costs have increased accordingly.

It is impossible to get help without paying unreasonable prices. The prison help which has been available in the past is now unprocurable.

Under these circumstances not much new work can be accomplished without a larger appropriation, and the commission does not feel that it should impose any heavier burden on the county, under the present unsettled conditions.

We are pleased to report the passage of the bill referred to in last year's report. Thirty thousand dollars were appropriated for a State road to Worcester, and a like sum will be asked for this year. Your attention is called to the superintendent's report.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN T. BURNETT.
THEO. L. HARLOW.
FRANK C. SMITH, JR.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

During the month of January, the winter being open, we were able to haul gravel to good advantage. About 1,000 feet of the road from the mountain to Princeton were completed.

The brush and undesirable growth along the north road were thinned out, and the brush burned and 75 cords of firewood removed. Three hundred chestnut fence rails were cut for guard rails on the reservation roads, and about 500 feet of guard rail built.

The ice house at the summit was filled, and 20 cords of wood hauled up for use at the hotel.

Quite a large area was planted. The potatoes were a failure, with the exception of 20 bushels of early ones used at the Summit House. Two hundred and fifty bushels of flint corn and a good crop of the smaller vegetables were raised. The fodder corn makes a good feed for the elk. About 25 tons of hay and oats were cut.

A start was made on the widening of the Echo Lake road. This is a narrow road, 10 feet in width, and it has been necessary to close it to automobiles. It goes through a most attractive section of the reservation, passes the elk park and skirts Echo Lake. This is being widened to an 18-foot road, and some of the sharp turns eliminated. Eight hundred feet were completed, and this work will be continued next year. Four hundred feet of Administration Road and 500 feet of the west road were paved and graveled.

A linter was built on the barn, and a small herd of young stock will be kept for the fertilizer obtained.

The mountain road where it circles the summit received a heavy coat of tarvia. The tarvia is used here, as it will not

wash into the pond. The rest of the road received a light coat of oil. This kept it in very good condition throughout the summer.

I am pleased to report a successful season at the Summit House.

For a detailed account of expenditures please refer to the county treasurer's report.

Very truly yours,

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

Superintendent.

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